

PROGRAM BOOK



2025 Public Policy Colloquium
Washington Marriott Capitol Hill
February 3-5, 2025





ABOUT THE COLLOQUIUM 2025

This year the PPC will focus on the themes of artificial intelligence, U.S. technical workforce needs, the bio-economy and quantum computing. In 2022, the US Congress and Biden Administration invested heavily in critical technology areas through passage of the historic CHIPS and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and annual appropriations. This investment continues to focus on growing the country's talent base, broadening capacity, and advancing use-inspired research around the nation; enabling tremendous opportunities for expanding engineering education and research. Federal agency and thought leaders will join deans to discuss these issues and ways that the federal government can collaborate with engineering colleges to build equitable and catalytic innovation ecosystems that enhance our national competitiveness. Deans will hear from agency leaders at the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology and Air Force Research Lab as well as thought leaders on innovation from leading industries. The sessions will provide insights into a new vision for federal research and education investments and pathways for engineering deans to get involved in helping to shape future activities. On February 7th, attendees will come together to advocate for critical priorities in funding and policy through in-person congressional visits. To prepare, the meeting will include discussion of the outlook for engineering education and research in 2025 and congressional visits training.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Starting at 3:00 p.m. Location	Registration
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Deans Forum: New, Recent and Curious <u>Description:</u> New, recent and curious deans will have an opportunity to meet one another and learn more about ASEE and specifically the Public Policy Colloquium (PPC) and the Engineering Deans Council (EDC). Focus will be on the PPC including past as well as current topics (Council of Governmental Relations, identity-focused policy advocacy, college athletics, ERVA, nuclear engineering programs). Preparation will begin for the colloquium as well as for the meetings with your state members of Congress and their staff. <u>Speakers:</u> Sam Easterling, Iowa State University; ASEE Public Policy Committee Chair Sharon Walker, Drexel University; ASEE Engineering Deans Council Chair <u>Organizers:</u> Anthony Marchese, University of Rhode Island Kim LaScola Needy, University of Arkansas
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Opening Reception <u>Speakers:</u> Sharon Walker, Drexel University; ASEE Engineering Deans Council Chair Kaitlin Mallouk, Rowan University, ASEE 1st Vice President

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction <u>Speakers:</u> Sam Easterling, Iowa State University; ASEE Public Policy Committee Chair Sharon Walker, Drexel University; ASEE Engineering Deans Council Chair
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Session 1: COGR and Addressing Red Tape Affecting Research <u>Description:</u> Matt Owens will provide an overview of Council of Governmental Relations (COGR) and its work to advance effective research policy. Specifically, he will speak to the growth in federal requirements affecting academic research institutions, ways to address those requirements, and the policy and political outlook for federally sponsored research. <u>Speaker:</u> Matt Owens, President COGR <u>Organizers:</u> Sam Easterling, Iowa State University; ASEE Public Policy Committee Chair Kim LaScola Needy, University of Arkansas
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Refreshment Break

<p>10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Session 2: Identity-Focused Workforce Sustainment Advocacy: Progress and the Path Ahead</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>The sustainability of national competitiveness relies on cultivating an engineering workforce enriched by diverse talents and backgrounds—an effort that thrives on strong, identity-focused advocacy. This session will present data showcasing progress in workforce diversification while emphasizing the ongoing need for advocacy tailored to underrepresented identities. Participants will explore proven advocacy strategies, with examples from organizations such as SWE, WEPAN, and the STEMM Opportunity Alliance. An interactive segment will highlight opportunities for collaboration between Engineering Deans and advocacy organizations, fostering innovative partnerships to strengthen and diversify the engineering workforce.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Roberta Rincon, Society of Women Engineers, Director of Research and Impact</p> <p>Rochelle Williams, Graduate Fellowships for STEM Diversity, Executive Director</p> <p>Travis York, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Director of Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity & Diversity</p> <p><u>Organizers:</u></p> <p>Gül E. Kremer, University of Dayton</p> <p>Kim LaScola Needy, University of Arkansas</p>
<p>11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Darryll Pines, President, University of Maryland</p> <p>Stacy Klein-Gardner, Executive Director of Engineering for US All</p>

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Session 3: What Deans Need to Know About the Changing Landscape of College Athletics

Description:

Your campus is likely navigating the substantial shifts occurring in college athletics. As a Dean, what do you need to know about the discussions and debates involving presidents, trustees, donors and alumni? How will the changes in athletics effect your campus finances? Enrollment? Peer group affiliation? Brand? This session will include a panel discussion with former Deans who ascended to the college presidency.

Speakers:

Karen Weaver, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Darryll Pines, President, University of Maryland

Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University

Organizer:

**Sam Easterling, Iowa State University;
ASEE Public Policy Committee Chair**

Kim LaScola Needy, University of Arkansas

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Session 4: NSF Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) Overview <u>Description:</u> Pramod Khargonekar, Vice Chancellor for Research University of California, Irvine will overview the NSF Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) as it relates to public policy and funding priorities, which will be followed by a group discussion with the deans to provide feedback to ERVA. <u>Speaker:</u> Pramod Khargonekar, Vice Chancellor for Research, University of California Irvine <u>Organizers:</u> Aaron Bobick, Washington University Sheryl Ehrman, San Jose State University Vijay Kumar, University of Pennsylvania John Lach, George Washington University
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Networking Refreshment Break

<p>4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 5: The Nuclear Engineering Gap</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Description: The domestic and, especially, the global demand for energy continues to grow rapidly. Despite a rise in renewable energy production, the magnitude of demand implies that either fossil fuels remain fundamental to the energy equation, or that we replace them with high-density energy systems that can provide the vast quantities of energy required in a manner that is technically and economically viable. This realization has prompted renewed interest in nuclear power. Additionally, the United States military continues to oversee and develop both a significant nuclear arsenal and platforms that rely on nuclear power. The goal of this session is to explore the policy implication of these factors on engineering research and education.</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Opening remarks from The Honorable Mike Simpson, U.S. Representative, Idaho, introduced by Suzie Long</p> <p><u>Panel Moderators:</u> Aaron Bobick and Anthony Marchese</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> Suzie Long, Dean of Engineering, University of Idaho Ashley Finan, Chief Science Officer, National and Homeland Security Program, Idaho National Lab</p> <p><u>Organizers:</u> Aaron Bobick, Washington University in St. Louis Suzie Long, University of Idaho Anthony Marchese, University of Rhode Island</p>
<p>6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Closing Reception</p>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

All Day

Group Meetings with Members of Congress and Staff

ASEE & the Engineering Deans Council Public Policy Colloquium planning committee would like to thank the generous contribution from our sponsor, Florida International University.



2025 PPC SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Ashley Finan

Chief Science Officer, National and Homeland Security

Directorate
Idaho National Laboratory

Dr. Finan provides scientific and strategic leadership for the directorate, manages the laboratory-directed research and development portfolio, directs the Research Accelerator Department, and oversees the delivery of quality, relevant, and impactful research and development. She is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center.

Previously, Dr. Finan was the founding Director of the National Reactor Innovation Center and a Division Director in the Nuclear Science & Technology Directorate at Idaho National Laboratory. She established and implemented initiatives, experimental facilities, and test beds to provide resources for reactor innovators to test, demonstrate, and accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technology concepts.

Dr. Finan also served as the founding Executive Director for the Nuclear Innovation Alliance, where she managed the organization's strategy, operations, government affairs, policy and technical development, stakeholder outreach, and fundraising. She provided expert guidance to policymakers, academic teams, industry stakeholders, and NGOs.

Dr. Finan earned her Ph.D. in Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her doctoral work focused on energy

innovation investment and policy optimization.



Dr. Stacy Klein-Gardner

Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering

Vanderbilt University

Dr. Stacy Klein-Gardner's career focuses on growing the engineering workforce, providing all students with engineering literacy, and developing high-quality teacher professional development in engineering. She is the founding Executive Director of Engineering for US All (e4usa), a nonprofit company, having served as the co-PI and co-Director of the NSF-funded Engineering for US All (e4usa) project.

She also provides educational evaluation for the Vanderbilt Institute for Surgery and Engineering's NIH-funded T32 training grant. Dr. Klein-Gardner is very active in the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), formerly serving as the chair of the ASEE P12 Commission and the PCEE division. She is a Fellow of ASEE and AIMBE.



Pramod Khargonekar

Pramod Khargonekar received B. Tech. Degree from the Indian Institute

of Technology, Bombay, India, and M.S. degree in mathematics in and Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Florida, respectively. He was

Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from 1997 to 2001, and held the position of Claude E. Shannon Professor of Engineering Science at the University of Michigan. From 2001 to 2009, he was Dean of the College of Engineering and Eckis Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Florida till 2016. After serving briefly as Deputy Director of Technology at ARPA-E in 2012-13, he served the head of the Directorate of Engineering at the National Science Foundation till June 2016. Currently, he is Vice Chancellor for Research and Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of California, Irvine. His research and teaching interests include theory and applications of systems and control. He has received numerous honors and awards including IEEE Control Systems Award, IEEE Baker Prize, IEEE Control Systems Society Bode Lecture Prize, IEEE CSS Axelby Award, NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, AACC Eckman Award, and is a Fellow of IEEE, IFAC, and AAAS.



Dr. Suzanna Long

Dean, College of Engineering
University of Idaho

Dr. Suzanna Long is an internationally recognized researcher in critical infrastructure systems management, with expertise in transportation/supply chain logistics, energy systems, and organizational systems planning. She is a Fellow of IISE and ASEM and holds both PE and CPEM licensures.

She began her tenure as Dean in July 2022 and has received over \$18 million in research awards as PI or co-PI. Dr. Long has authored many highly cited publications and previously gained national recognition as a federal electronic records archivist focused on big data analytics.

Dr. Long is passionate about providing opportunities for students across all domains of engineering. As Dean, she has worked to help first-generation, rural, and veteran students seamlessly integrate into the field of engineering and develop professional skills. She is also a thought leader in distance education, with more than 30 years of leadership experience.



Matt Owens

Matt Owens is president of COGR – a membership organization of over 200

research universities, affiliated medical centers, and independent research institutes.

COGR is the national authority on federal policies and regulations affecting U.S. research institutions. The association provides a unified voice for over 220 research universities and affiliated academic medical centers and research institutes. COGR's work strengthens the research partnership between the federal government and research institutions and furthers the frontiers of science, technology, and knowledge. COGR advocates for effective and efficient research policies and regulations that maximize and safeguard research investments and minimize administrative and cost burdens.

Owens became COGR's president in March 2023.

From 2002-2023, Owens served at the Association of American Universities (AAU) in several positions. He twice served as Interim President (2016, 2020). From 2018-2023, he was AAU's Executive Vice President & Vice President for Federal Relations. In these roles he provided strategic leadership and management to the association's priorities and oversaw AAU's federal relations activities. His primary issue responsibility was federal budget and appropriations policy and advocacy, and he twice testified before Congress on budget process reform. During his tenure he staffed the AAU board of directors and membership committee, as well as the association's chief academic officers, senior research officers, federal relations, and graduate deans constituent groups.

While at AAU, he led the association's efforts in higher education policy and advocacy, including the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act from 2002-2008, as well as AAU's response to post-September 11, 2001 immigration and visa policies and procedures affecting international students and researchers. From 2003-2007 Owens served on the U.S. Department of State's Advisory Committee for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union. He also served on the Group of Advisors to the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Education Program from 2002-2006.

Owens began his professional career in higher education with the AAU in 1994, where he served until 1997 when he left to pursue graduate studies. He also served

as an intern for a U.S. Senator and worked in the mortgage industry from 1993-1994.

Owens earned a Master of Public Administration (1999) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Bachelor of Arts in English (1993) from the University of California at Davis, and an Associate of Arts in English (1991) from Santa Rosa Junior College.



DARRYLL J. PINES

Darryll J. Pines has proudly served as the 34th

president of the University of Maryland since July 2020. The Glenn L. Martin Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Pines has emphasized achieving excellence in all aspects of university life while creating a diverse and multicultural community that allows everyone to reach their full potential.

He has led efforts to address the grand challenges of our time, and 50 university projects have received \$30 million in university-sponsored grants to study and implement solutions in areas such as sustainability, literacy, and food, energy and water insecurity. Pines also co-founded the 120 Initiative, an effort to reduce gun violence in collaboration with the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Other signature campus initiatives include the Terrapin Commitment, the largest single-year investment in need-based scholarships in university history; TerrapinSTRONG, an onboarding program to create a shared understanding of the university's mission, history and values; and

a pledge to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2025.

Pines first arrived on campus in 1995 as an assistant professor and steadily rose through the ranks of academic leadership. He served as chair of the Department of Aerospace Engineering from 2006–09 and for the following 11 years as dean and Nariman Farvardin Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the A. James Clark School of Engineering.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, he is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Institute of Physics; chairs the Engineering Advisory Committee for NSF's Engineering Directorate; sits on the Board of Trustees for Underwriters Laboratory not-for-profit arm; and serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, the board of trustees for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As the principal investigator for Engineering For Us All (e4usa), Pines is leading efforts to expand engineering education to new generations of high school students and teachers.

Pines received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Dr. Roberta Rincon

Director of Research and Impact
Society of Women Engineers
(SWE)

As SWE's Director of Research and Impact, Dr. Roberta Rincon oversees the organization's research activities on gender equity issues affecting girls and women in engineering, from school to career. Before joining SWE, she was a Senior Research and Policy Analyst at The University of Texas System. She has over 20 years of experience in education research and policy analysis.

In her current role, Dr. Rincon shares SWE's research on gender equity in engineering and technology with academic, industry, and policy researchers and practitioners to inform their STEM diversity efforts.

She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, an MBA and an M.S. in Information Management from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning from UT Austin.



Mike Simpson

U.S. House of Representatives,
Idaho's 2nd District

An Idaho native, Congressman Mike Simpson was born in Burley and raised in Blackfoot. He graduated from Utah State University and earned his DMD from Washington University School of Dental Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He then joined his father and uncle at the Simpson Family Dental Practice in Blackfoot.

Mike's political career began in 1980 when he was elected to the Blackfoot City Council. In 1984, he was elected to the Idaho Legislature, where he served until 1998, including six years as Speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives.

Elected to represent Idaho's 2nd district in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998, he is currently serving his fourteenth term—the longest-serving member of the House of Representatives from Idaho in history. He sits on the House Appropriations Committee as the chair of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and is a senior member and former chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Mike and his wife Kathy have been married for over 50 years and have called Idaho home all their lives. They enjoy spending time with their dog, Charley, and exploring Idaho's beautiful scenery.



Gregory Washington

George Mason University President Gregory Washington leads Virginia's largest, most innovative, and most diverse public university, a top-tier research institution ranked among the top 30 public

universities nationally by the Wall Street Journal and one that has rapidly emerged as a national leader in upward mobility for students of all backgrounds.

U.S. News & World Report ranks George Mason as the top public university in the state for innovation, upward mobility, and internships. The Wall Street Journal ranks George Mason tops in the state for value and upward mobility.

With university goals that align with the state's higher education agenda, George Mason under Washington has helped Virginia be named the No. 1 state in the country for business and education by CNBC.

Since launching his George Mason presidency in July 2020, Washington has formed new partnerships, created academic and entrepreneurial pathways, opened or broken ground on academic facilities on all three Virginia campuses and has presided over the highest sponsored research expenditures in George Mason history.

Washington, the former engineering dean at Ohio State University (interim) and the University of California, Irvine, was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2023.



Dr. Karen Weaver

Dr. Karen Weaver writes and teaches about how senior leaders in higher education can understand the role that college athletics will play as it evolves into a very different governance and financial

model. Her new book, *College Presidents and College Athletics: Money, Power, Politics*, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in early 2025.

She has written over 150 articles for *Forbes* on the intersection of higher education and college athletics. Many have received editorial distinction on *Forbes SportsMoney* pages.

The second edition of her textbook, *Sport Finance: Where the money comes from and where the money goes* is now available via Kendall Hunt Publishers.

Dr. Weaver also hosts the podcast *Trustees and Presidents: Managing Intercollegiate Athletics*. Her guests have included trustees; presidents; state policy experts; media, technology, and education writers and scholars; attorneys; and legal scholars, all focused on the current state of affairs in college athletics. She uses the podcast as part of her graduate course curriculum.

A former Division I and III head coach, she also spent 15 years as an athletics administrator in Divisions I and III.



Dr. Rochelle Williams

Rochelle L. Williams, Ph.D. is an engineer, educator, and advocate for equitable environments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

professions. Dr. Williams is serving

as the Executive Director of Graduate Fellowships for Stem Diversity. She is also the Co-Principal Investigator on several National Science Foundation grants (totaling over \$6.4M since 2020) with partners including, WEPAN, SWE, SHPE, AISES, Kennesaw State, and the Algebra Project. She also serves as the President-elect of the Women in Engineering Proactive Network (WEPAN) Board of Directors. Dr. Rochelle previously served as the Chief Programs and Membership Officer at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), where she was responsible for achieving the strategic outcomes of the society and for supporting the planning and implementation of programs, membership initiatives, and research. Having received her Bachelor of Science in physics from Spelman College and both her Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and Ph.D. in Science and Mathematics Education from Southern University and A&M College, Dr. Williams intentionally works to promote the excellence and innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



Dr. Travis York

Travis T. York, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity & Diversity (ISEED) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

In his role, Dr. York provides leadership for all of AAAS's externally facing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives. York's research and work focus on catalyzing and sustaining systemic change and transformation to achieve inclusive and equitable access and progress through STEM pathways into the STEM workforce. Within AAAS, York provides leadership to a talented team who collaborate to create change through dozens of grant-funded projects and initiatives spanning all STEM fields and the entire educational pathway including the STEM Opportunity Alliance – recently launched at the White House Summit on STEM Equity & Excellence, AAAS's SEA Change Initiative, AAAS S-STEM REC, ARISE Network, Equitable Pathways Project, L'Oreal USA Women in Science Fellowships, and HBCU Making & Innovation Showcase. Dr. York received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from The Pennsylvania State University, Master's in Higher Education, and a Bachelor's with distinction from Geneva College. York also studied at Oxford University's Keble College in 2003-04. Prior to his AAU service, Owens was the Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations at Stanford University from 1992-2002. In this role he worked on federal higher education, research policy, and funding issues, as well as town-gown relations and the university's land use plans.

